United Nations A/C.6/61/L.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the attention of the Sixth Committee to the following.

Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly allocated 14 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of those items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading for "Organizational, administrative and other matters", is contained in the letter dated 18 September 2006 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/61/1).

Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The following table lists the documents of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,[1] in accordance with requests of Member States.

[1] The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the sixty-first session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 19 September 2006.

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	Projected date of issuance
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [33]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/980)	Mid-October
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [75]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/222)	Issued
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [76]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/119 and Add.1)	Issued
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-ninth session [77]	
Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/61/17)	Issued
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-eighth session [78]	
Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/61/10)	Early October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [79]	
Report of the Special Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/61/33)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/61/153)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/61/304)	End September
The rule of law at the national and international levels [80]	
Letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Liechtenstein and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/142)	Issued

	Projected date of issuance
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [100]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/61/210 and Add.1)	Issued early October
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/61/37)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (A/61/178)	Issued
Letter dated 17 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/280)	Issued
Administration of Justice at the United Nations [128]	
Report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations System of Administration of Justice (A/61/205)	Issued
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [148]	
Report of the Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/61/26)	Early November
Requests for observer status in the General Assembly [153]	
Observer status for the OPEC Fund for International Development in the General Assembly, letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/141)	Issued
Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly, note verbale dated 21 July 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/191 and Add.1)	Issued
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [110] (adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-second session) (General Assembly resolution 58/316)	No advance documentation required

	Projected date of issuance
Programme planning [118]	
Biennial programme and priorities for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6 (Prog. 6))	Issued
Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/61/16)	End September
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	No advance documentation required

Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee, at its 23rd meeting during the sixtieth session, adopted a provisional programme of work for the sixty-first session, which was noted by the Assembly in its decision 60/513 of 8 December 2005. The following programme has been prepared on this basis taking into account the allocation of items by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

6. At the same meeting, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the General Committee, fixed the target date of 9 November for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee (A/61/250, para. 14), which has also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the following work programme.

	Approximate dates of consideration
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-ninth session [77]	10 October
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [100]	11-12 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [128]	13 October

	Approximate dates of consideration
Requests for observer status in the General Assembly [153]	13 October
– Observer status for the OPEC Fund for International Development in the General Assembly	
Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly	
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening the Role of the Organization [79]	16 October
The rule of law at the national and international levels [80]	17 October
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [75]	18 October
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [76]	18 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-eighth session [78]	23 October-3 November
The rule of law at the national and international levels [80]	6 November
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [33]	6-7 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [148]	9 November
Adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-second session (General Assembly resolution 58/316)	9 November
Programme planning	Dates to be determined
Election of the officers of the Main Committees of the General Assembly [5]	9 November

Holding of consultations

7. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee, as indicated in paragraph 9 below, any meetings for consultations would have to be accommodated in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings allocated to the Committee.

Deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

8. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. As 9 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6 above), 29 October 2006 would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning the items that will be considered after that date.

Conference resources available

9. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more than 6 to 8 plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

10. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section through the Secretary of the Committee.